

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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43

ACTION CU-04

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R 131243Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2555

UNCLAS ROME 11630

FOR: CAO AND CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC

SUBJ: JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY

1) WITH SMASH REVIEWS, JOSE LIMON TROUPE VISITED ITALY COMMERCIALY AS LEAD-IN TO CU TOUR. IN PART BECAUSE OF SUMMER SITUATION, TOURED 6 SMALL CITIES IN LAZIO REGION AROUND ROME, MANY HEAVILY COMMUNIST. PLAYED IN OPEN AIR SETTINGS AS PART OF EFFORT IN ITALY TOWARDS CUTURAL REGIONALIZATION. IRONICALLY THIS EFFORT TOWARDS POPULARIZATION OR DEMOCRATIZATION OF CULTURE ONLY POINT SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM BY PAESE SERA, COMMUNIST DAILY, WHICH LAMENTED ABSENCE OF PERFORMANCES IN TRADITIONAL MAJOR CULTURE CENTERS LIKE ROME.

2) TROUPE IS YOUNG, VIBRANT AND BRILLIANT CONTINUATION OF LIMON TRADITION WHICH, WITH ITS MEXICAN ROOTS. PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. FOLK-BASED DANCE MOVEMENTS AND CONCEPTS FAR CLOSER TO IMMEDIATE EXPERIENCE OF POPULAR AUDIENCES HERE THAN ABSTRACTIONS OF CLASSICAL BALLET, THEREFORE RESPONSE PREDICTABLY WARM.

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3) TROUPE SELF-CONTAINED, HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL, FLEXIBLE

AND EVEN PLIABLE, BUT NATURE OF MODERN DANCE
PERFORMANCE AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTING LIGHTING ETC
TO DIFFERENT STAGES AND SPACES MEANS THERE WILL
BE COMPLICATIONS. AS INDIVIDUALS ALL MEMBERS EXCELLENT AT
REPRESENTATION. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THEY ARE
WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT OF POST TIME AND RESOURCES
AND WILL REPAY IT MANY TIMES OVER. VOLPE

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